GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5790
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
HARMFUL AERIAL SPRAYING OF PESTICIDES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aerial spraying of pesticides over cashew plantations in Kerala has caused congenital defects in children;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sent any team to probe this findings;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being proposed to stop such harmful spraying of pesticides on the harvests?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): There are reports alleging that congenital defects observed in some children might be due to aerial spraying of pesticides over cashew plantations in Kerala. Keeping the reports in view, the Government of Kerala has constituted a committee to study the alleged ill effects of this pesticide. The report of the committee is awaited.

(d): Government of Kerala has issued orders to stop the aerial spraying of endosulfan on cashew plantations.